





















Anno Regni  
GEORGE II.  
REGIS

*Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,*  
VICESIMO QUINTO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Westminster*,  
the Tenth Day of *November*, Anno Dom. 1747,  
in the Twenty first Year of the Reign of our So-  
vereign Lord *GEORGE* the Second, by the Grace  
of God, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*,  
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued by several Prorogations to the Four-  
teenth Day of *November*, 1751, being the Fifth Session of  
this present Parliament.



LONDON:

Printed by *Thomas Baskett*, Printer to the King's most Excellent  
Majesty; and by the Assigns of *Robert Baskett*. 1752.

Anno Regni

GEORGE III

1760

By Appointment, Surveyor of the Mint

JOHN WILKINSON

Printed by J. WILKINSON, at the  
Mint, in the Strand, near the  
Royal Exchange, in the City of  
London. 1760.

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Anno vicesimo quinto

# Georgii II. Regis.

An Act for better preventing the horrid Crime  
of Murder.



Whereas the horrid Crime of Mur- Preamble.  
der has of late been more fre-  
quently perpetrated than former-  
ly, and particularly in and near  
the Metropolis of this Kingdom,  
contrary to the known Humani-  
ty and natural Genius of the  
British Nation: And whereas it  
is thereby become necessary, that  
some further Terror and peculiar  
Mark of Infamy be added to  
the Punishment of Death, now

by Law inflicted on such as shall be guilty of the said hein-  
ous Offence; May it please Your most Excellent Majesty,  
that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's  
most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Con-  
sent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons,  
in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority  
of the same, That from and after the First Day of Easter  
Term, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand seven hun-



Murderers to  
be executed the  
next Day but  
one after Sen-  
tence,

died and fifty two, all Persons who shall be found guilty of wilful Murder, be executed according to Law, on the Day next but One after Sentence passed, unless the same shall happen to be the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, and in that Case on the Monday following.

and their Bo-  
dies to be de-  
livered to Sur-  
geons Hall to  
be anatomized.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Body of such Murderer so convicted, shall, if such Conviction and Execution shall be in the County of Middlesex, or within the City of London, or the Liberties thereof, be immediately conveyed by the Sheriff or Sheriffs, his or their Deputy or Deputies, and his or their Officers, to the Hall of the Surgeons Company, or such other Place as the said Company shall appoint for this Purpose, and be delivered to such Person as the said Company shall depute or appoint, who shall give to the Sheriff or Sheriffs, his or their Deputy or Deputies, a Receipt for the same; and the Body so delivered to the said Company of Surgeons, shall be dissected and anatomized by the said Surgeons, or such Person as they shall appoint for that Purpose: And in case such Conviction and Execution shall happen to be in any other County, or other Place in Great Britain, then the Judge or Justice of Assize, or other proper Judge, shall award the Sentence to be put in Execution the next Day but One after such Conviction (except as is before excepted) and the Body of such Murderer shall in like Manner be delivered by the Sheriff, or his Deputy, and his Officers, to such Surgeon as such Judge or Justice shall direct for the Purpose aforesaid.

Sentence to be  
pronounced  
immediately  
after Convic-  
tion.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That Sentence shall be pronounced in open Court immediately after the Conviction of such Murderer, and before the Court shall proceed to any other Business, unless the Court shall see reasonable Cause for postponing the same; in which Sentence shall be expressed not only the usual Judgment of Death, but also the Time appointed hereby for the Execution thereof, and the Marks of Infamy hereby directed for such Offenders, in order to impress a just Horror in the Mind of the Offender, and on the Minds of such as shall be present, of the heinous Crime of Murder.

The Judge  
may stay the  
Execution of  
the Sentence;

Provided always, and be it enacted, That after such Sentence pronounced as aforesaid, in case there shall appear reasonable Cause, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Judge or Justice, before whom such Criminal shall have been so tried, to stay the Execution of the Sentence, at the Discretion of such Judge or Justice, Regard being always had to the true Intent and Purpose of this Act.

Provided



Provided alſo, That it ſhall be in the Power of any ſuch Judge or Juſtice to appoint the Body of any ſuch Criminal to be hung in Chains: But that in no Caſe whatſoever the Body of any Murderer ſhall be ſuffered to be buried; unleſs after ſuch Body ſhall have been diſſected and anatomized as aforeſaid; and every ſuch Judge or Juſtice ſhall, and is hereby required to direct the ſame either to be diſpoſed of as aforeſaid, to be anatomized, or to be hung in Chains; in the ſame Manner as is now practiſed for the moſt atrocious Offences.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That from and after ſuch Condiſtion; and Judgement given thereupon, the Gaoler or Keeper, to whom ſuch Criminal ſhall be delivered for ſafe Cuſtody, ſhall confine ſuch Priſoner to ſome Cell, or other proper and ſafe Place within the Priſon, ſeparate and apart from the other Priſoners; and that no Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, except the Gaoler or Keeper, or his Servants, ſhall have Access to any ſuch Priſoner, without Licence being firſt obtained for that Purpoſe, under the Hand of ſuch Judge or Juſtice, before whom ſuch Offender ſhall have been tried, or under the Hand of the Sheriff, his Deputy, or Under Sheriff.

Provided alwayſ, That in caſe any ſuch Judge or Juſtice ſhall ſee Cauſe to reſpite the Execution of ſuch Offender, ſo condemned as aforeſaid, ſuch Judge or Juſtice may relax or release any or all of the Reſtraints or Regulations herein before or herein after directed to be obſerved by the Gaoler or Keeper of the Priſon, where ſuch Priſoner ſhall be confined, by any Licence in Writing, ſigned by ſuch Judge or Juſtice for that Purpoſe, for and during the Time of ſuch Stay of Execution; any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That after Sentence paſſed as aforeſaid, and until the Execution thereof, ſuch Offender ſhall be fed with Bread and Water only, and with no other Food or Liquor whatſoever (except in caſe of receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and except in caſe of any violent Sickneſs or Wound, in which Caſe ſome known Phyſician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, may be admitted by the Gaoler or Keeper of the ſaid Priſon to adminiſter Neceſſaries; the Chriſtian and Surname of ſuch Phyſician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, and his Place of Abode, being firſt entered in the Books of ſuch Priſon or Gaol, there to remain) and in caſe ſuch Gaoler or Priſon Keeper ſhall offend againſt, or neglect to put in Execution, any of the Directions or Regulations hereby enacted to be obſerved, ſuch Gaoler or Priſon Keeper ſhall, for ſuch Offence, forfeit

and appoint the Body to be hung in Chains, or to be anatomized, but not buried.

After Judgement, Priſoner to be confined to ſome Cell;

and none but the Gaoler, &c. to have Access to him, without Licence from the Judge or Sheriff.

Upon Stay of Execution, Judge may relax the ſaid Reſtraints.

After Sentence Priſoner to be fed with Bread and Water only,

except in certain Caſes.

Gaoler making Default to forfeit his Office, and 20 £.



Office, and shall be fined in the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and suffer Imprisonment until the same be paid.

Penalty of rescuing a Murderer.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall by Force set at Liberty, or rescue, or attempt to rescue or set at Liberty, any Person out of Prison, who shall be committed for, or found guilty of Murder, or rescue, or attempt to rescue, any Person convicted of Murder going to Execution, or during Execution, every Person so offending, shall be deemed, taken, and adjudged to be guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy.

Penalty of rescuing the Body after Execution.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall, after such Execution had, by Force rescue, or attempt to rescue, the Body of such Offender out of the Custody of the Sheriff, or his Officers, during the Conveyance of such Body to any of the Places hereby directed, or shall, by Force, rescue, or attempt to rescue, such Body from the Company of Surgeons, or their Officers or Servants, or from the House of any Surgeon, where the same shall have been deposited in pursuance of this Act; every Person so offending, shall be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of Felony, and shall be liable to be transported to some of His Majesty's Colonies or Plantations in America, for the Term of Seven Years, in like Manner as is directed by the Laws now in Force relating to the Transportation of Felons; and shall be subject to the like Punishment, and Methods of Confinement, in case of returning into, or being found at large within Great Britain, within the said Term of Seven Years, in all Respects, as by Law other Felons are subject to, in case of unlawfully returning from Transportation.

This Act not to extend to Act 11 Geo. II. for disarming the Highlands.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing herein contained shall extend to repeal or alter so much of an Act made in the Eleventh Year of His late Majesty's Reign, (intituled, An Act for the more effectual disarming the *Highlands* in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*; and for the better securing the Peace and Quiet of that Part of the Kingdom, as relates to the Suspension of the Execution of Persons convicted of capital Offences, within that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*) for the respective Times in the said Act mentioned; any thing herein before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

F I N I S.



















